



Volume 32: Issue 07
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Mountain Lake Aviation
Association

Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Meeting

**ION Aircraft – Two Steves
Speaker: Steve Schultz**

***Saturday, September 2 – 6:00 pm
McGowan Hangar***

Imagine powered flight but with the quiet of a walk on the beach.
Imagine the beauty of unobstructed visibility in flight.
Imagine an airplane that anyone can fly, a light sport with attitude.
Imagine assembling your own airplane.

This vision and more captured the imagination of Steve Schultz and ION Aircraft. This is a story of how imagination can become reality; turning ideas and dreams into a prototype airplane and its first two offspring. Oshkosh took notice when the first ION flew in 2008 and each year thereafter!

This is a story of how reality requires perseverance, technical aptitude, a left-handed team, and an expansive sense of humor. Steve will share tales of designing an airplane from scratch, including engineering and business management details of what worked and what went wrong; all with his unique wit and perspective. It's a journey that will catch your breath, intrigue you, and make you wonder why anyone would want to do this.

There are lots of stories that Steve will NOT tell. He won't talk about the numerous times that he was pulled over by the police when trailering the ION somewhere. Police interrogations ranged from "what the hell is that?" to really cool questions. After the terrorist attacks of 9-11, law enforcement and aviation had a falling out. An officer that stopped him asked if he had a permit. "No" he had to admit "a permit is not required," you really can design and build an airplane from scratch and no one really cares. Or the policeman that spent two hours examining every inch of the van, sure that the landing gear was some form of drug paraphernalia. Really? Well, it didn't look like landing gear to him.



Steve Schultz & Steve Martin with ION

Two Steves - continued

Steve Schultz is a Minnesota native with diverse interests and inexhaustible curiosity. He has always been an aviation addict, certain that this proclivity is a result of being dropped on his head as a kid (likely more than once). He got his pilot's license and degree in Asian political history in college. Which was an excellent foundation for his Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and starting his first business as a wilderness guide into Alaska and British Columbia. This launched his career as a serial entrepreneur. Starting and running successful businesses in aquatic safety, email encryption software, and dog supplies. His most recent business is ION Aircraft which satisfies his aviation addiction. Did we mention that we think he must have been dropped on his head as a kid?

Steve Martin, our PML neighbor, introduced Steve Schultz to us. Steve M is a California native, born in Torrance and grew up on a ranch in Madera. Steve got his wings in the Navy. After a tour of Vietnam and six years flying P3s, it was time to go civilian; Steve joined Continental Airlines. He enjoyed thirty-six years with Continental flying domestic and international, including two years as test pilot on the MD-80. Steve is active at PML as our representative on the Tuolumne County Airport Advisory committee, as vice president of the PML Aero Club, and you will often see him at the A/V controls for PMLAA meetings. Steve is also a car guy, loves his Porsche and has even done a little racing. Steve and Dian have had a home at PML since 2005.

Steve S met Steve M at Oshkosh, debating the possibilities and perils of computer control and programming for an aircraft engine. That particular engine didn't work out but Steve and Steve forged a strong collaborative friendship. Steve M will NOT tell you any trailer stories either, like when they got a police escort to a hotel and told to stay there until sun up because the trailer lights were not working.

President's Message – by Bonnie Ritchey

Our first Hot August Nights on the NE Taxiways was a blast – let's never do it again! I look forward to handing the baton back to the back-taxiway gang next year, as well as all the work that goes into planning, prepping, etc. I want to thank Jules Thoben, Karen Eldredge, Janet Gregory and Chloe Fitzmyers for their help slicing and bagging 200+ bags of veggies for the hamburgers the night before. Also, huge thanks to everyone who showed up for setup Saturday morning. And of course thank you to my Jimmersall neighbors who opened up their hangars to host this party. Finally, thanks to our awesome VP of Social, Danielle, for taking care of the food and band! I really don't know how she does it all.

For anyone who came by the photo booth (or what to see what you missed) the photos are all online here: <https://goo.gl/photos/4awWzNAN4KuZ7yMY6>

PMLAA mourns the loss of Michael Daniel Shaver

Mike Shaver was born in Peoria, Illinois on October 19, 1946. He grew up on a family farm. After he finished high school he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served in Viet Nam working on airplanes for a year and a half. He was sent home because of a family emergency after his father died. He helped his mother take care of his brother who had a severe case of Down's syndrome. He did both construction work and farming.

After a year of college he went to A&P School and became an airplane mechanic for Ozark Airlines which later merged with TWA. When it was about to merge again, this time with American Airlines, he retired and ran his own restoration business in St. Louis until he moved to California. Mike volunteered at Oshkosh, the largest airplane show in the Western Hemisphere and maybe the world. There he judged the antique airplanes, with a group of about 10, for the last 28 years.

Mike was an active Rotarian for many years volunteering his time and energy to various community projects. This included one of the Club's largest undertakings-the building of the bathroom at the Little League Baseball Field in Big Oak Flat. Mike was an excellent craftsman and when the Rotary club began their annual shrimp feast Mike donated the material and constructed the large cooking pots for the event that are still in use today.

When he first started living at the Pine Mountain Airport he met and later married Judge Eleanor Provost. They built a hangar/house on the back taxiway.

Mike went to Tennessee to pick up an airplane that he purchased. On August 9, 2017 he went missing and was later found by search and rescue at the crash site in Tremontina, New Mexico. It is believed at this time that bad weather was the cause of this fatal accident.

Mike is survived by his loving wife Eleanor and by three children from a previous marriage. He will be missed by Eleanor's family, many friends and the Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association.

There are no funeral services planned at this time.



Eleanor and Mike sharing a special moment

Make a Memory – Sept. 30 – by Virginia Richmond

On September 30th, local EAA members can make wonderful memories for area children in the Young Eagles program. Many of these kids will be taking their first airplane ride. Remember that thrill?!

EAA's Young Eagles program has been making memories and introducing kids to aviation for 25 years. Come join the fun! Call Ed Gregory at 962-5061 to sign up as a volunteer pilot or ground support crew.



Young Eagles are flying at PML Airport, September 30th from 9am-noon. Pilot requirements:

- EAA membership (National; local chapter not required).
- Complete the online [EAA Youth Protection Policy](#), including a short training session and background check.
- Valid airman's certificate (sport pilot or greater).
- Current medical certificate (if applicable).
- Current to carry passengers in the aircraft.
- Aircraft Passenger Liability Insurance for the aircraft



Patriots Jet Team 5th Annual Gala

A special evening out. Treat yourself to a dazzling Patriots Jet Team flight performance, live music, a champagne reception, and a delicious dinner with drinks. It's the annual Patriots Jet Team Gala and fund raiser for the foundation that promotes aviation education and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).



Saturday, September 30th from 5:00p – 11:00p this truly unique event takes place at the Byron Airport. The evening features PML's own keynote speaker **Rex Pemberton**, who has climbed all seven peaks and created the Jet Powered X-Wing revolutionizing human flight. Tickets are a tax deductible \$150 each. Go to <http://bit.ly/PJTF2017Gala> to register and for more information.

PML Community Airport Day Oct. 7 – by Virginia Richmond

The Pine Mountain Lake Aviation Association is again inviting the greater Groveland community to Community Airport Day on October 7th from 12:00 – 3:00pm. This fun and free event is one of the ways we ensure appreciation and support from the local community for our airport.



Air boss Wayne Handley has developed a great line-up, including skydivers, radio controlled model airplane demonstrations, fly-overs, flying demonstrations, and amazing formation flying. There will also be pilot skills contests featuring flour bombing and precision landing. Ramp boss Mike Gustafson has arranged some exciting races between airplanes and cars. We will offer the usual refreshment stand as well.

This is an all-hands event for PMLAA members. Get involved; see where you can help! You can sell refreshments, display your aircraft, participate in the flying contests, race a plane or car, recruit performers, help with set-up, traffic control and safety, and much more.



- To help at the refreshment stand, contact Steve DeRodeff at 962-5997 by September 15. Call soon to get your pick of shifts.
- To help with set-up, safety, traffic control, airplane movements, airplane displays, etc. contact Mike Gustafson, 962-6336.
- To perform or to participate in the flour bombing or spot landing contests, contact Wayne Handley at 962-7868 by September 15. Note there are only eight slots available for each contest.

Invite your friends and neighbors and let them see what a great asset our airport is to the whole community!



Editor's message

Thank you to Bonnie Ritchey for taking over the newsletter editor job last month while I was away!

Nikki Grimes

Social Corner – by Danielle Coelho

First off, I would like to shout out a huge THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered their help and homes to make the Northeast 27 Hot August Nights Taxiway Party a Success! I'd also like to thank our members and guests for all the great appetizers and desserts they brought. As busy as I was running around making it all happen, I still enjoyed seeing everyone enjoying themselves. I even got to dance a bit at the end of the night to that wonderful Columbia band.



Vehicles at 2017 Hot August Nights – photo by Michael Thoben

Now onto September we go....Our pot luck in September will be an easy one - bring your favorite dish to make.

- If your last name starts with **A-K**, **bring a main dish or salad**
- If your last name starts with **L-Z**, **bring a dessert or appetizer**

As usual our meeting will be at the **McGowan's Hangar on Saturday September 2, 2017 at 6 pm**. Please see the last page of the newsletter for directions to the McGowan Hangar. I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

Radio Rumors: "Say Again"

- **PMLAA welcomes four new members**, total membership is 190.
 - Barry Blaine & Cindy Anderson of Campbell
 - Dave & Jodi DeSmidt of Foster City
 - Dave Montgomery & Luci Tyndall of Groveland
 - Eddie & Lisa Pavlu of San Jose
- **TCAA Meeting:** The August 14th TCAA (Tuolumne County Airport Advisory) committee meeting was cancelled. No policy issues to review. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14th at 10:30am. Contact Ed Gregory or Steve Martin for info.

Area Aviation Events

September	2 – PMLAA Meeting – speaker Steve Schultz, ION Aircraft <i>4 – Labor Day</i> 9-10 Patriots Jet Team @ CA Capital Air Show 13-17 – Vicky Benzing racing @ Reno Air Races 17 – Patriots Jet Team @ GO PRO Grand Prix of Sonoma <i>16 – 49er Festival in Groveland</i> 22-24 – Patriots Jet Team at MCAS Miramar Air Show 23 – E45 Airport Display Day (date change) 30 – EAA Young Eagles at PML Airport 30 – Vicky Benzing @ CA International Airshow, Salinas 30 – Patriots Jet Team Annual Gala, Byron
October	7 – PML Airport Day 11:30 – 3:00 7 – PMLAA Meeting 6:00 7 – Vicky Benzing @ Livermore Air Show 7-8 – Patriots Jet Team @ Fleet Week in San Francisco 21-22 – Patriots Jet Team @ San Bernardino Air Show <i>31 – Halloween</i>

2017 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Time & Location</u>
September 2	ION and the Steves	6:00PM- McGowan Hangar
October 7	PML Airport Day	6:00PM- McGowan Hangar

BOARD OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS – 2017			
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		Safety , various contributors	
		Newsletter , Nikki Grimes	666-0141
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McGowan's hangar is on the north taxiway about half way between the intersection crossing the runway and runway 9

